

## May 25, 2021 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on May 25, 2021 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles, Tammy Pearson and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Finance Director Linda Conover, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Deputy Police Chief Rob Fincher.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 6:00 PM. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Vice Mayor Bowles, seconded by Council Member Pearson with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected, as authorized by Subsection 6. Council Member Martin joined the Closed Session at 6:45pm. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the meeting. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Bowles; seconded by Council Member Pearson, with the following 4-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Pearson, aye. Council Member Martin joined the meeting after the roll call. No action was taken out of Closed Session.

Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Mayor Lawson, Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Lawson explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines, allowing limited attendance and recognizing social distancing recommendations.

Approve minutes from the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting, and the May 12 and May 13, 2021 Work Sessions – Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Pearson seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Recognize City Employees who are eligible for Service Awards for the period April 1 – June 30, 2021 – City Manager Towarnicki recognized City employees for service milestones.

**SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS  
FOURTH QUARTER - FISCAL YEAR 20-21  
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2021**

First Name	Last Name	Location Desc	Years of Service
MATTHEW	SHUMATE	ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION	5
COREY	AGEE	SHERIFF - JAIL	5
CHARLES	CREASY	SHERIFF - JAIL	5
ROY	LINEBERRY	SHERIFF - JAIL	5
CHARLES	GRIFFITH	POLICE DEPT	5
ADAM	PARNELL	POLICE DEPT	5
STEVEN	ROGERS	POLICE DEPT	5
TONY	HALL	CENTRAL GARAGE	5
RICKY	HUNDLEY	SEWER MAINTENANCE	10
ALBERTO	HERRERO	COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY	10
JASON	HAIRFIELD	STREET MARKING & SIGNS	10
HARVEY	YORK	WASTEWATER PLANT	15
MICHAEL	MARTIN	CITY HALL MAINTENANCE	20
CHARLES	ANDERSON	TRAFFIC SIGNALS	25


Present awards to Martinsville Middle School students who recently participated in Virginia Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor" Contest – Mayor Lawson explained how Council decided on the winning essays and the prizes that they would receive, emphasizing that no tax payer dollars would be used. Lawson thanked Mike Haley of Uptown Pinball for matching Council's prize and his continued support of the essay contest. Lawson shared the winners with first place and a \$50 gift certificate to Uptown Pinball going to Benjamin Wood, second place and a \$30 gift certificate going to Morgan Niblett, and third place with a \$20 gift certificate going to Demetrious Brown. Lawson invited all three winners to the podium for a photo with Council Members and presented them with a certificate. Lawson said that this year's theme was a little different than in years past. There were some really good comments and suggestions made by the students.

Conduct a public hearing regarding the need to adopt the real estate tax rate of \$1.0621/\$100 assessed value for the FY22 budget – Mayor Lawson explained that this item would not be addressed since Council would not be adopting the real estate tax rate.

Conduct a public hearing on the City's FY21-22 budget and consider approval of Budget Ordinance 2021-U-1 on first reading – City Manager Towarnicki provided a brief summary of the budget approval process and the steps taken so far as well as a brief summary of the FY22 budget changes. Towarnicki explained there were few participating in the Senior Center services currently because of the pandemic but there was good participation in years past and still several residents that take advantage of the medical transports. Council discussed the CARES funding and how it would affect the budget. Mayor Lawson opened the public hearing. No one approached the podium so the public hearing was closed. The second reading will be June 8, the budget can be adjusted up until that date. Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the budget ordinance 2021-U-1 on first reading. Council Member Turner seconded

May 25, 2021 Council Meeting

the motion with the following roll call vote: Lawson, aye; Bowles, aye; Martin, aye; Pearson, aye; and Turner, aye.



Ordinance 2021-U-1

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

*BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled June 8, 2021, that the following sums of money be and hereby are appropriated — by specific Fund — for the City's fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, from the following Fund sources of estimated revenue:*

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES  
2021-2022

FUND	PROJECTED REVENUES	BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	CHANGES FUND BALANCE
General	\$31,318,454	\$34,218,454	(\$2,900,000)
Meals Tax	\$2,472,720	\$2,472,720	\$0
Capital Reserve	\$884,694	\$884,694	\$0
Refuse	\$1,883,000	\$2,764,837	(\$881,837)
Telecommunications	\$2,377,707	\$2,377,707	\$0
Water	\$3,486,750	\$4,670,263	(\$1,183,513)
Sewer	\$4,597,512	\$5,369,637	(\$772,125)
Electric	\$20,100,024	\$20,883,990	(\$783,966)
CDBG	\$22,132	\$1,608	\$20,524
Cafeteria*	\$1,699,679	\$1,739,915	(\$40,236)
School Operating*	\$23,703,197	\$23,703,197	\$0
TOTALS:	\$92,545,869	\$99,087,022	(\$6,541,153)

\*Cafeteria and School Operating Funds information provided by School Personnel

**Tax Rates:**

Real Estate:	\$1.03975 per \$100 assessed value
Personal Property:	\$2.30 per \$100 assessed value (unchanged)
Machinery & Tools:	\$1.85 per \$100 assessed value (unchanged)

*BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by said Council that this Ordinance shall be effective on and after July 1, 2021.*

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Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider approval of a bond amendment regarding financing for the Beaver Creek Reservoir Dam repair project – Mayor Lawson explained that is item would be moved to a future Council meeting in June.

Consider setting a public hearing for Council's June 8, 2021 meeting for the purpose of receiving names of citizens interested in appointments for two 3-year terms ending June 30, 2024 on the Martinsville City School Board – Mayor Lawson explained that the expiring terms were filled by Dominique Hylton and Yvonne Givens, both were unexpired terms previously so neither Hylton or Givens have served a full term. Council will accept names of interested parties at the next meeting. Council Member Martin made a motion to set the public hearing for June 8, 2021. Vice Mayor Bowles seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor

**SCHOOL BOARD**

**SCHOOL BOARD** – The School Board is declared a body corporate. In its corporate capacity, it is vested with all the powers and charged with all the duties, obligations, and responsibilities upon school boards by law. It may sue, be sued, contract, be contracted with, and in accordance with the provisions of this title, purchase, take, hold, lease, and convey school property both real and personal. The School Board has the following powers and duties: 1) to make rules for the governance of the schools within its jurisdiction; 2) to determine the curriculum, methods of teaching, methods of administration and governance, and the length of the school term; 3) to employ and dismiss teachers upon the recommendation of the superintendent; 4) to suspend or expel pupils when necessary; 5) to establish such schools as are necessary in the judgement of the Board to so constitute a complete and efficient system; 6) to control and manage funds made available to the Board for the purpose of conducting free public schools; 7) examine all claims for payment and authorize payment; and 8) to submit annually to City Council a budget request.

**TERMS:** The Board consists of five members serving three-year terms appointed by City Council. School Board members can serve a maximum of three 3-year consecutive terms.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Zeb Talley, Superintendent, 403-5820, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112

Name & Address	Initial Appointment	Term Expires	Full Term
Emily Parker, 1225 Mulberry Road	07/09/19	06/30/22	
Donna Dillard, 912 Forest Lake Dr. (reappt 6/23/20)	8/24/16	6/30/23	1
Tony Jones, 612 Third Street	6/23/20	6/30/23	
Dominique Hylton, 627 Mulberry Rd	9/10/19	6/30/21	
Yvonne Givens, 714 Indian Trail	07/09/19	06/30/21	

NOTE: If a Board or Commission does not specify number of terms a person can serve, then the number of terms defaults to three terms per a policy adopted by City Council December 11, 1990. (per city attorney 4/26/11) Two exceptions (1) if no one is interested (2) no one qualified has applied, then the person holding the position can serve another term if Council chooses.

Consider approval of consent agenda - Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 05/25/21				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b><u>BUDGET ADDITIONS</u></b>				
<b><u>FY2021</u></b>				
<b><u>General Fund:</u></b>				
01102926	405555	Brownfields Grant - EPA		47,114
01812247	503136	Brownfields - Hazardous - Consultant	35,687	
01812249	503136	Brownfields - Petroleum - Consultant	11,427	
		Requisition #16		
<b>Total General Fund:</b>			<b>47,114</b>	<b>47,114</b>

Business from the Floor – No business from the floor. Council Member Pearson asked if Business from the Floor would continue to be restricted for future meetings due to COVID. Mayor Lawson explained that there are still some restrictions so Council would continue to follow those guidelines for now.

Comments by City Council – Council Member Pearson reminded residents about the joint meeting with the Henry County Board of Supervisors regarding the reversion discussion. The

May 25, 2021 Council Meeting

public is invited but there will be no opportunity for public comment. Congratulations Dr. Hodges, the incoming president for Patrick Henry Community College and Pearson wished the outgoing president, Dr. Godwin the best. Council Member Turner invited residents to Roselawn Cemetery for the Memorial Service on Monday. Vice Mayor Bowles asked about the public hearing for the school board and how interested residents would be considered. City Attorney Monday explained the state law requires that anyone wishing to be considered for a position on the School Board, must have their name mentioned at the meeting but are not required to be present at the meeting. They are not required to be a registered voter but must be a resident of the City of Martinsville. Mayor Lawson congratulated the local high school graduates; she was so happy they were able to have a graduation this year. On June 4, there will be a traveling exhibit on Women's Suffrage at the Historic Courthouse from 5:00-8:00pm open to the public. The Mustangs will play their first game on Thursday, May 27. Congratulated to Deputy Police Fincher's daughter on her graduation.

Comments by the City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki reminded residents that City Hall will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day and there will be no trash pickup that day.

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Martin with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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Karen Roberts  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy Lawson  
Mayor